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(p. 412) is a stage of the apple scab fungus, yet these fungi could scarcely be confounded by one who had seen them. Under the heading "Peach leaf blotch (*Gloeosporium cydoniae* Mont.)," this disease is said to cause spots on the "living leaves of the peach (*Cydonia vulgaris*)." *Sphaeropsis malorum* is described only as a leaf spot disease of the apple, although it has been longest and best known as the cause of the black rot of the fruit, and later as the cause of a serious bark canker of apple trees.

The new journal *Phytopathology* is to be issued for the present as a bimonthly publication of the American Phytopathological Society. The aim, as set forth in the editorial announcement, is "to provide a place for the publication of phytopathological papers which would otherwise be lost or scattered in various places." While much of its space will be occupied by papers read before the society, it is the policy of the editors to make the journal more broadly representative and to open its pages to contributions of value from any source. It is of octavo size, containing at present about 35 pages of text and a number of plates in each issue. The halftone plates are of unusually good quality. The first issue is fittingly introduced by an excellent halftone portrait of DEBARY, with a brief sketch of his life and of the influence of his great personality on the advancement of plant pathology.

Heretofore the chief interest in plant pathology in the United States has been on its economic side, and this side has been highly developed as a result of the facilities for investigation, and for the ready means for publication of results having an economic bearing, offered by the experiment stations. As a result of the emphasis on the economic point of view, little attention has been given to the more fundamental problems relating to the subject. Such phases as the physiological relations between the host and parasite, the changes in metabolism brought about by the parasites, and the enzymatic activities of parasites, have remained almost uninvestigated. A journal like the present one, devoted entirely to the interests of plant pathology and not restricted to the purely economic phases of the subject, will undoubtedly do much to stimulate research in these deeper problems of plant pathology.—H. HASSELBRING.

Fossil plants

The second volume of SEWARD'S *Fossil plants*[6] has remained too long unnoticed by this journal. The first volume appeared in 1898, and the general purpose and method of the work were stated in the review published at that time.[7] The thirteen years that have elapsed have been memorable ones in the history of paleobotany, so that if this second volume had appeared as promptly as at first expected, it would have been sadly out of date by this time. So large an addition has been made to our knowledge of fossil plants, that now we are to have three volumes of this work, instead of two, and the third volume, promised to appear "with as little delay as possible," is to contain the seed plants, and also a much-needed discussion of the geographical distribution of plants at different stages in the history of the earth.

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[6] SEWARD, A. C., Fossil plants; a text-book for students of botany and geology. Vol. II. pp. xxii+624. *figs. 265*. Cambridge: The University Press; New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1910. $5.00.

[7] Rev. in BOT. GAZETTE **26**:59. 1898.

The present volume contains the pteridophytes, with the exception of Equisetales and the major part of Sphenophyllales, which were treated in the first volume. As has been said often in this journal, the material of paleobotany must be traversed critically by morphologically trained paleobotanists, so that morphologists may be able to base their conclusions upon reasonably assured data. Even yet, most paleobotanists are stratigraphers, their chief concern being to be able to recognize a given horizon by a given form, whatever its relationships may be. Of course, such paleobotanists are geologists rather than botanists.

Seward has now done this service for botanists in the very critical series of fossil pteridophytes, and we are able to put together two or three competent and independent judgments, feeling well assured if we find agreement, and feeling cautious if we find disagreement. It is impossible to discuss the details of such a book, for it is more a manual than a reading text. It will be sufficient to indicate the titles of the 16 chapters.

XII, Sphenophyllales (continued) (16 pp.); XIII, Psilotales (13 pp.); XIV, Lycopodiales (62 pp.); XV, Arborescent Lycopodiales (104 pp.); XVI, Sigillaria (31 pp.); XVII, Stigmaria (21 pp.); XVIII, Bothrodendreae (23 pp.); XIX, Seed-bearing plants closely allied to members of the Lycopodiales (9 pp.); XX, Filicales (44 pp.); XXI, Fossil ferns (71 pp.); XXII, Marattiales (fossil) (17 pp.); XXIII, Psaronieae (15 pp.); XXIV, Ophioglossales (fossil) (5 pp.); XXV, Coenopterideae (91 pp.); XXVI, Hydropterideae and Sagenopteris (11 pp.); XXVII, Genera of Pteridosperms, ferns, and *plantae incertae sedis* (97 pp.).

These titles do not indicate any coordination, but perhaps they represent the legitimate state of mind in the presence of the material.—J. M. C.

MINOR NOTICES

New Zealand plants.—New Zealand is fortunate in having as its leading botanist one who has not only carefully studied the problems of plant life in a comparatively new region, but has now given to the general public a most interesting volume[8] on the vegetation of these islands. Beginning with a simple synopsis of the history of botanical explorations in New Zealand, from the work of Dr. John Forster in 1773 to the present day, Dr. Cockayne proceeds to discuss the most notable features of a vegetation ranging from a

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[8] Cockayne, L., New Zealand plants and their story. 8vo. vii+190. *figs. 71.* 1910. Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.